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QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS

Letter dated 31 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With regard to the letter dated 19 October 1994 addressed by Japan to the President of the General Assembly (A/49/551), I wish to stress the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea relating to the Japanese attempt to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

Japan is obliged to make full apology and compensation for its past aggression and war crimes prior to seeking permanent membership in the Security Council.

Japan is the only country that has failed to make a clean slate of its State-sponsored aggressive war crimes and violations of human rights committed during and before the Second World War, such as those of "war comfort women" and forced drafting, including the punishment of war criminals even today after the lapse of 50 years.

At the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights, non-governmental organizations involving the majority of victims have strongly opposed the proposed permanent membership of Japan, which has not yet liquidated its war crimes, in the Security Council.

Though Japan, which has thus far attempted to gloss over the State-sponsored war crimes by establishing the so-called "Civilian Fund", declared its intention not to repeat the tragedy of the Second World War, it has no authenticity at all.

The militarist utterance from the lips of the Cabinet Ministers of Japan that denies the Nanjing genocide and beautifies the Pacific war as a colonial liberation war is a reflection of the current policy pursued by Japan.

Japan is spurring its development as a military and nuclear power, as shown by the facts, such as its second place position in the world in military expenditure, its concealment of 70 kg of plutonium and its dispatch of self-defence forces abroad.

Therefore, Japan's permanent membership in the Security Council will only contribute to accelerating its already-started process to that end.

If Japan, with such an unsavoury background, becomes a permanent member of the Security Council, it would mean that Japan has bought the seat of a permanent membership. It would thus also be a mockery of international justice and the consciousness of mankind.

The main obstacle to the relationship between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan is not the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea vis-à-vis the proposed permanent membership of Japan, but the attitude of Japan, which is devoid of the will to liquidate its past wrongdoings. Japan should act reasonably and with discretion.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 33.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations